

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph 0014 with the following amended paragraph:

[0014] In high gigabit data transmission, however, it is more difficult to switch the laser between these two levels. Therefore, external modulation may be more desirable. In external modulation, a constant light source or laser is used and the data is modulated externally using modulator 160. In this manner, laser ~~460~~ 150 supplies a carrier wave at a constant output power and is coupled to a discrete optical modulator. A radio frequency (RF) signal supplied to the modulator from driver 170 encodes the data onto the constant light source. In this manner, laser 150 remains in its lasing mode and the signal is modulated externally from the light source.